7. The Sustainable and Flexible Energy System ("SAFE") proposed by Japan constitutes a useful framework for further consideration of issues of energy security.

8. The Iranian proposal for an Asian Bank for Energy Development merits deeper consideration.

C. SUSTAINABILITY

1 Endorsing the importance of energy conservation for the protection of the environment and issues of climate change, the need for technological cooperation in the pursuit of cleaner and more environmentally-sound fossil fuel technologies was emphasized.

2. To this end, cooperation among Asian research and development centers and the promotion of conservation awareness among the general public were recongnized a key instrumentalities.

Retails outlets in foreign countries

†2270. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up its retail outlets in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target fixed with regard to setting up of retail outlets in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) have set up retail outlets through subsidiary companies in Sri Lanka and Mauritius. In Sri Lanka, under the provisions of a Tripartite Agreement executed by Lanka OIC Private Limited (LIOC), Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and Ceylon Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPC), CPC handed over 100 retail outlets owned by them to LIOC in February 2003. LIOC commenced commercial operations form these retail outlets from February 2003. Subsequantly, LIOC started negotiating with franchise dealers and so far 70 franchisees have joined LIOC's fold, bringing the total tally to 170 retail outlets in the Island. In Mauritius, 2 retail outlets have been set up by IOC's subsidiary company.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) IOC's subsidiary company in Mauritius plans to set up 8 more retail outlets in that country by December, 2005. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited have bid for a stake in CPC, which is being disinvested by Sri Lankan Government. This bid is towards the offer of CPC for 100 retail outlets and partial rights over one terminaling facility in Sri Lanka. Apart form these proposals, the public sector companies do not have, at present, any other target with regard to setting up fo retail outlets in foreign countries.

Review of subsidies in Oil and Gas Sectors

2271. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the subsidies in Oil and Gas sectors as part of deregulation process; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Subsidies in the Oil and Gas Sector are kept under constant view of the Government. As per the current Government policy, the Government subsidy on subsidized PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG is to be phased out over a period of 5 years effective from 1.4.2002, *i.e.* Government subsidy would be available upto 31.3.2007.

Gail's plan to review Dabhol Power Plant

2272. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GAIL has made proposals to invest and revive the Dabhol Power Plant;

(b) if so, the details of this investment;

(c) whether GAIL has any experience in this kind of power generation;

(d) to what extent would GAIL be moving away from its core competence by going in for a project like Dabhol Power Plant;

(e) whether there was any outside pressure on GAIL to take over this project; and